

## **Appleby Archaeology**

Notes of the Committee Meeting of the Appleby Archaeology Group held on Thursday August 20<sup>th</sup> 2015 at 5 The White House, Appleby.

### **Present**

Phyl Rouston	Chairman
Heather Edwards	Membership Secretary
Mike Godfrey	Treasurer
Martin Railton	Research
Martin Joyce	Newsletter
Richard Stevens	Secretary

### **Apologies**

Carol Dougherty

### **Notes of the last meeting**

The notes of the previous meeting were agreed to be a correct record.

### **1/8/15 Matters arising**

None

### **2/8/15 Membership**

Heather explained that although the last minutes of meeting said that there were 52 paid up members, this was incorrect. There are in fact 66 members in total, 40 single & 26 in 13 joint memberships.

Martin J said he had circulated the new proposal for the membership database. The shared/restricted access, spell check, grammar etc. were all working & the system works on all tried platforms. He proposed that the system be made operative as soon as he could input actual data, rather than the tests he had been using.

### **3/8/15 Treasurer's Report**

Mike provided a copy of the accounts for the period 21<sup>st</sup> May to 20<sup>th</sup> August, showing a positive balance of £4453.75. This large amount was due to the receipt of the Brackenber grant from CWAAS. One payment was outstanding, to Appleby Business Services for £25.80. The cheque paid to Musgrave Church Field Trust for £30 had not yet been presented.

### **4/8/15 Research**

Martin R said that, as mentioned by the Treasurer, the Brackenber grant had now been received and the process of completing the project would now begin. The article for the Transactions would probably be ready for the 2017 publication. The amount granted did not include anything for conservation of the collared urn because CWAAS seemed unwilling to support this part of the project. Martin explained that although the original quotation for conservation from Blaise Vynner had been £250, he had now received a more accurate figure from Karen Baker, the conservator, for £100. Phyl generously said that unless a source of funds could be found, she was willing to pay for this herself, however, Richard agreed to try the Appleby Town Council first to see if they would wish to support the conservation, with a view to exhibiting the item in the Moot Hall. **(Martin R, Richard)**

Phyl said that she wished to record the appreciation of the committee for the effort put in by Martin R & Richard in obtaining this grant.

### **5/8/15 Appleby Town Project**

1. Martin reported that the fieldwalking exercises had been useful and a number of items of pottery had been found. The launch meeting had been good but the attendance was small, only 16 people, and these were mostly members who had taken part in practical work in the past. Finds washing had been part of the evening & Barbara Blenkinship had helped enormously by taking the pottery home, identifying & cataloguing everything, photographing each piece and producing a report. All agreed that Barbara should be sent a letter thanking her for her efforts. **(Phyl)** Martin said he would be looking for other fields to walk over. Receipts for bowls, brushes etc. were presented to Mike for payment.
2. Martin went on to describe the two survey weekends. The first, on the football field had produced a good turnout over the 4 half days. The target was the medieval Appleby Grammar School. Both resistivity and magnetometry had been tried and there had been excitement when rectangular, then circular features were discovered. Disappointment followed when it was realized that these were relics of the football pitch markings! Nothing of any archaeological interest was found and it is assumed that the field has been worked over so many times that nothing remains.

The second survey weekend had been more productive. Searching for the Roman fortlet and/or signal station shown on the HER, a rectangular enclosure with two internal circular features had been discovered. The enclosure had a possible entrance from the Roman road & was visible from the ground as a considerable bank & ditch on two sides. Martin explained that he thought that this was probably an Iron Age or Romano-British feature, so putting paid to the second signal station in the Group's history! Martin said he had produced a report for the HER and Historic England and that this had just been circulated to the committee by email. Richard undertook to obtain a LIDAR image of the area from Geomatics. **(Richard)**

3. Future planning for the Appleby Town Project was then discussed. Initially, it was thought, the Group should complete an 'expression of interest' form on the HLF website. This should give an idea of whether or not the Project is likely to fit the funding criteria. If HLF give a positive response to that, we would put together an application for initial funding & concurrently start contacting local landowners for permission to dig. **(Richard/Martin R)**

Phyl said that she would write to the Town Council, the Appleby Business Centre manager Carl Bendelow & the A in W Society to give them a status update. Concerning the latter, their lack of response to our first letter is peculiar, especially as their secretary has now asked for a copy of the letter. **(Phyl)**

### **6/8/15 Correspondence**

Correspondence had been received from the A in W Society (Newsletter); Cumbria Local History Federation (Bulletins & day conference details); Elizabeth Hodgson (Lazonby pottery) and Hellas Travel.

### **7/8/15 Programme**

Phyl reported that the visit to Binchester had been very successful with 18-20 people attending, some of whom had gone on to view Escomb church. The remainder of the programme has been finalised as per the matrix on the website, the programme for circulation has been altered to reflect the change of venue.

Regarding speakers for the AGM, Martin R said that he would use the time to update the

membership on the Town Project. Martin J will include an appeal for speakers in the Autumn newsletter & Richard would follow this up (if necessary) with an email shot. It was suggested that Carol might be prevailed upon to talk about medieval manuscripts!  
**(Martin J/Richard)**

### **8/8/15 Change of Venue**

The committee thanked Phyl for organising the switch to the Market Hall at very short notice when it became clear that C67 would be closing down. At the moment, it is unclear whether or not C67 will reopen but the feeling of the committee was that despite that possibility, the Group should change the evening to avoid the clash with the Yogis and go back into the supper room. Rather than ask the membership which evening they would like, the committee will decide on the best evening & recommend that to the members. Thursday seemed to be the favourite amongst the committee.

Richard agreed to send round an email explaining the change of venue and Martin J said he would place a reminder in the autumn newsletter. **(Richard)**

Once the group was re-established in the Market Hall, the committee would recommend the change to Thursday and ask for feedback from the membership

### **9/8/15 AOB**

None

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9pm

**Date and time of next meeting: 7.30pm on Thursday November 12<sup>th</sup> at 11 Chestnut Close, Culgaith.**